

(Washington, D.C.) - U.S. Representative Chet Edwards will be in Waco Saturday, January 16, 2010 to speak at the American GI Forum of Waco Tribute and Remembrance ceremony at 11:00 AM at the Waco Vietnam Veterans Memorial on University Parks Drive and Washington Avenue. Joining them is the Bosque Valley Chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

Among those to be honored will be Col. Robert L. Howard who earned the Medal of Honor and is considered one of our nation's most decorated soldiers, Sgt. Harlon Joe Gilmore who is enshrined at the Waco Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and Sgt. Marselo Sunny Lozano a former member of the Waco Citizens for a Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the group that was formed to build the Memorial.

Also honored will be those fallen heroes killed during Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) from the greater Waco area: Marine Gunnery **Sgt. John David Fry**, Army SPC Jeffrey Paul Shaffer, Marine Lance Cpl Johnny Strong, and Army SPC Javier Antonio Villanueva.

Family members of all those being honored will be present.

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**Saturday, January 16, 2010**

WHAT: Edwards will speak at the American GI Forum Tribute and Remembrance ceremony

WHEN: 11:00AM

WHERE: Waco - Vietnam Veterans Memorial, University Parks and Washington Ave.

**Background:** [Congressman Edwards](#) authored a new law in 2009 to expand the current GI Bill education benefit to cover the full cost of a college education for all children of troops who die while serving on active duty. Edwards named the new benefit the "**Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry**"

**scholarship**

in honor of a Lorena Marine with three young children who bravely gave his life in Iraq. Edwards met the Fry family in 2009 and was moved by the depth of their personal sacrifice, which inspired him to author the new law.

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